United Nations A/69/PV.99

General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session

Official Records

99th plenary meeting
Monday, 27 July 2015, 11 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Kutesa ..... (Uganda)

The meeting was called to order at 11.05 a.m.

Tribute to the memory of His Excellency Mr. Roble Olhaye, Permanent Representative of Djibouti to the United Nations

The President: Before proceeding to the item on our agenda, it is my sad duty to pay tribute to the memory of the late Permanent Representative of Djibouti to the United Nations, His Excellency Mr. Roble Olhaye, who passed away on Wednesday, 22 July. Ambassador Olhaye had a distinguished career as a respected diplomat. He began his tenure at the United Nations on 18 January 1988 and was appointed Ambassador to the United States on 2 March of that year. He served as the dean of the diplomatic corps in Washington, D.C. On behalf of the General Assembly, I request the representative of Djibouti to convey our condolences to the Government and the people of Djibouti and to the bereaved family of His Excellency Roble Olhaye.

I now invite representatives to stand and observe a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of His Excellency Mr. Roble Olhaye.

The members of the General Assembly observed a minute of silence.

The President: Today we pay tribute to Ambassador Roble Olhaye of Djibouti, whose passing away last week has saddened the United Nations community. Having been appointed in 1988, as I said, Ambassador Olhaye was the longest-serving Permanent Representative at the United Nations. In his 27 years of service, Ambassador Olhaye built an enduring legacy both in New York and in Washington, D.C, where he served as Ambassador of his country to the United States. He was also Djibouti's non-resident Ambassador to Canada. Here at the United Nations Ambassador Olhaye served in a wide range of capacities, including representing his country in the Security Council in 1994. He served as President of the Council in February 1994, as well as Chairman of the Sanctions Committee established pursuant to resolution 841 (1993), on Haiti. He later served as Chairman of the Second Committee in 1999.

Prior to coming to New York, Ambassador Olhaye served as Djibouti's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in Nairobi. He was also Honorary Consul of Djibouti to Kenya from 1980 to 1985, during which time the political relations between the two countries were established.

Through more than two and half decades of international service, Ambassador Olhaye's presence became an indelible part of daily life at the United Nations. I know I speak for many of us when I say that he will be greatly missed. I convey my sincere condolences to the bereaved family, including his wife and children, as well as to the Government and the people of Djibouti. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

The Secretary-General: I welcome this opportunity to pay tribute to the late Permanent Representative of Djibouti, His Excellency Mr. Roble Olhaye. I extend my deepest condolences to the President of Djibouti,

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

15-23166 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

His Excellency Mr. Ismaël Omar Guelleh; its Minister for Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Mr. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf; and other colleagues in the Foreign Ministry for their loss. At this time of mourning, we may take some measure of comfort in knowing that Ambassador Olhaye left a lasting legacy based on nearly 30 years of engagement with the United Nations.

Ambassador Olhaye first presented his credentials to Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar in January 1988. He also represented his country in North America. He was fondly referred to as the Eternal Representative among Permanent Representatives. He had great wisdom. We considered him a leading dictionary, since he knew so much.

During his long career of public service, he made important contributions on issues across the United Nations agenda, helping to advance progress in our core mission of achieving peace, human rights and development. Ambassador Olhaye showed strong leadership on many occasions, including as President of the Security Council and Chairman of the Haiti Sanctions Committee in 1994, as well as Chairman of the Second Committee in 1999. I deeply appreciated his support when I travelled to Djibouti last October. I remember how he helped to make my visit a great success.

Ambassador Olhaye was a passionate champion of Africa and a great believer in the value of the continent's partnership with the United Nations. Thanks in part to his support we have strengthened our important bond, making a difference in the lives of millions of people.

Beyond his many diplomatic successes, Ambassador Olhaye was deeply admired for his energy, dedication and sincerity. He once said that "never forgetting those most in need is the reason why we are here" at the United Nations. Ambassador Olhaye always remembered the people who are suffering. Let us carry on that spirit as we honour his memory.

The President: I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

I now give the floor to the representative of South Africa, who will speak on behalf of the Group of African States.

Mr. Mamabolo (South Africa): At the outset, on behalf of the Group of African States, I wish to extend my deepest appreciation to Mr. Sam Kutesa, President of the General Assembly, for organizing this special meeting of the General Assembly as a memorial to the late Ambassador Roble Olhaye, Permanent Representative of Djibouti to the United Nations and Ambassador to the United States of America and to Canada.

It is with profound sadness that the African Group learned of the passing away, on Wednesday, 22 July, of our beloved colleague and brother, His Excellency Mr. Roble Olhaye, Permanent Representative of Djibouti and Ambassador to the United States. Ambassador Olhaye's work at the United Nations spanned over three decades and leaves behind an indelible legacy. Very few Ambassadors can lay claim to having served at the United Nations alongside four Secretaries-General. And there are less than a handful of Ambassadors who can ever claim to have served under five United States Presidents, as Ambassador Olhaye did.

Our hearts are filled with deep sorrow, for he welcomed most of us as Permanent Representatives to the United Nations in his capacity as the dean of the diplomatic corps. We hold in remembrance a big brother, a diplomatic giant, a strong pillar and skilful negotiator who worked tirelessly to advance the African agenda. We also hold in remembrance his warm welcome and mentoring of each of us as new Permanent Representatives. The passing away of Ambassador Olhaye is a great loss to his family, his country, the African Group and the United Nations. It is indeed a great loss for the diplomatic community.

Ambassador Olhaye had an illustrious diplomatic career. For almost three decades, he served his country with distinction at the United Nations. He was the longest-serving Ambassador to the United Nations and to the United States of America in Washington, D.C. He therefore became the dean of the diplomatic corps. Ambassador Olhaye was dedicated to his work and to his homeland.

By all accounts, Ambassador Olhaye was an astute and outstanding diplomat. He was well respected by his fellow Permanent Representatives, and equally by other diplomats. As the African Group, we relied on his significant understanding, wisdom and knowledge of the delicate process of the United Nations. His enormous professionalism, dedication and significant contribution to the unity and cohesion of the African Group will always be missed.

We will remember him for tirelessly working on advancing the African agenda. It is for this reason that

we in the African Group say we have lost a big brother, a giant and an institution that we relied on during the many difficult times in negotiations. He imparted with enormous professionalism his unwavering commitment to upholding the founding principles of the United Nations and the unity and cohesion of the African Group. His enduring legacy of core values and principles will remain forever etched in our hearts and minds as we continue to cherish the memory of our departed brother.

On behalf of the African Group, please allow me to offer our deepest condolences to his bereaved family and to the Government and the people of Djibouti. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Bangladesh, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Asia-Pacific States.

Mr. Momen (Bangladesh): I am humbled to speak on behalf of the Group of Asia-Pacific States at this solemn moment to pay tribute to His Excellency Mr. Roble Olhaye, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Djibouti to the United Nations. It was with a heavy heart and profound sadness that last week we learned about the passing away of our good friend, Ambassador Olhaye. On behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group, I express our deepest condolences and sympathy to the bereaved family of Ambassador Olhaye as well as to the Government and the people of the Republic of Djibouti for their great loss. The Group thanks you, Mr. President, for convening this meeting to pay tribute to Ambassador Olhaye.

Ambassador Olhaye had an outstanding diplomatic career. He held his country's flag high in different United Nations bodies, such as the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements. His engagement as the Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations spanned more than 27 years. During his long association with the United Nations, he demonstrated exceptional intellect, vision, skill and passion for the core ideals of the Organization. All of us immensely benefited from his wealth of knowledge, wisdom and experience. Ambassador Olhaye's contribution to global peace and security, including as the President of the Security Council and the Chairman of the Sanctions Committee on Haiti and as a member of the Security Council mission to Mozambique, earned him the respect of all his peers. Ambassador Olhaye worked tirelessly in a number of United Nations committees and offices, such as the position as Chair of the Second Committee, as well as at the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services, to name a few.

On a personal note, I had a great deal of respect for him. He shouldered the responsibilities of his nation in two most important stations simultaneously, at the United Nations in New York and the other at his country's Embassy to the the United States in Washington, D.C. Yet as a colleague I never felt disconnected, as he was always available when I needed him. He was especially passionate on the issue of Africa, and therefore I once described him as the voice of Africa, as he articulated the aspirations of Africa in a very constructive and meaningful way. Yet he never neglected the genuine issues of other groups. He was affectionate, loving and soft-spoken, and in times of need he stood solid like rock.

There is a saying: "Death leaves a headache that no one can heal; love leaves a memory no one can steal." While our hearts ache at the passing away of our friend and dean, Ambassador Roble Olhaye, the love and respect he earned by his work to this comity of nations, through his loving, compassionate and amicable behaviour will keep him always alive among us and no one can steal his memory from us.

On this solemn occasion, on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group, I would like to reiterate our commitment to continuing our close work with the Permanent Mission and the Government of the Republic of Djibouti in the coming days.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Romania, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States.

Mrs. Jurcan (Romania): The members of the Group of Eastern European States express their condolences to the bereft family and friends of His Excellency Ambassador Roble Olhaye, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Djibouti to the United Nations, on the sad occasion of his passing away, on 22 July. During his nearly 30-year diplomatic career as a Permanent Representative of the Republic of Djibouti, he worked in the United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations-Habitat, and, starting in 1988, as Ambassador to the United Nations, the United States and Canada. Ambassador Olhaye, the dean of the diplomatic corps, served his country in an active and professional manner while holding a number of important posts, including

that of President of the Security Council in February 1994. His presence will be sorely missed by all of us, including the members of the Eastern European States.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Paraguay, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Mr. González Franco (Paraguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): On behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC), I address the General Assembly to express our deep condolences on the passing away of Ambassador Roble Olhaye, Permanent Representative of Djibouti and dean of the diplomatic corps.

Ambassador Roble Olhaye was a person committed to his country and to the purposes and principles of the Organization. At United Nations Headquarters, he distinguished himself in carrying out his important roles as, inter alia, Chair of the Second Committee and President of the Security Council in February 1994, during a period when his country served as a non-permanent member of that organ. He also played a crucial role in the reform process of the Security Council; indeed, he was one of the Permanent Representatives appointed to conduct negotiations that led to the adoption of decision 62/557 in 2008. That decision broke for the first time a 14-year deadlock in those discussions. In his native country, he will be remembered as a diplomat who dedicated most of the life to defending the overriding interests of Djibouti.

We are very saddened by the absence of Ambassador Olhaye, and as we remember his place in the Organization, the Member States of GRULAC would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to him. Without a doubt, the memory of Ambassador Olhaye will remain very dear to whoever shared his friendship and his company. To the members of his family, we would like to convey our most sincere condolences and to let them know that we share their grief at this very difficult time.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Spain, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States.

Mr. González de Linares Palou (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the sad duty to speak today on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States on the loss of our colleague, Ambassador Roble Olhaye, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Djibouti to the United Nations. We would like to convey our sincere condolences to the Government of Djibouti and to his bereaved wife and children, as well as to his extended family and friends.

Ambassador Olhaye was one of the seniormost veteran members of the international community in this country, where he used his valuable experience and knowledge in the private and public sectors for the service of a country that, although facing many challenges, has proved its resilience and quality as a partner in our common endeavours. Ambassador Olhaye had the opportunity and honour to represent Djibouti at the United Nations since 1988, where his previous assignments as Permanent Representative to the United Nations Environment Programme and to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in Nairobi were an invaluable asset in defending the interests not only of Djibouti but of the entire African continent. He was also accredited Ambassador to Canada and the United States of America. He then became the longest-serving Ambassador to the United States of America and was the dean of the diplomatic corps.

On behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States, I would like to reiterate our deep sadness once again for the loss of someone who was a husband, a father and, for us, a colleague and a friend.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the United States of America, who will speak on behalf of the host country.

Ms. Power (United States of America): I have the honour to speak today on behalf of the Government of the United States of America, the country that has the privilege of hosting the United Nations. I offer our deepest condolences to the people and the Government of the Republic of Djibouti on the passing away of His Excellency Ambassador Roble Olhaye, Permanent Representative of Djibouti to the United Nations and Djiboutian Ambassador to the United States of America.

Some days when we come to work we can feel anything but united here at the United Nations. But if there is one thing that all representatives of all nations can agree upon, it is the depth of the loss that we feel with Roble's passing. He was our dean, our leader and our big brother. We will miss not only his strong opinions and commanding presence, but also, above all, his personal warmth and generosity.

Before I moved to New York to take up my position, I asked my predecessor, Ambassador Rice, what were the first things I should do when I arrived

here. Her counsel was typically straightforward: "Go see the Ambassador of Djibouti," she said. "He knows everyone and he knows everything." When I paid a call on him in my first days here, he greeted me with two enormous boxes of cannolis and eclairs. "One box for you," he said with delight, "and one box for your son and your daughter." There was no geopolitical conversation with Roble that did not begin with a discussion of our families and our love of our kids. That is one quality that made him such a tireless diplomat. He never lost sight of the individuals and families who were, and still are, affected by all of the debates we have here.

Although Roble seemed an omnipresent fixture here at the United Nations, he somehow managed to moonlight between New York and Washington, D.C., where he was the longest-serving Ambassador to the United States of America. When he took over as Djibouti's Ambassador in Washington, D.C., on 22 March 1988, he said, "Americans had never heard of Djibouti." Even among diplomats, the nation was not very well known. Djibouti did not even have an Embassy in Washington, D.C., before his arrival. But Roble persuaded his President to open one, and then used that Embassy as a perch from which to forge the trust and relationships that were his currency.

"When we opened," he later said, "a lot of people in this country were writing to us for information, addressing letters, "Dear Mr. Djibouti". Roble changed that. He mailed out information packages about his country to high schools and elementary schools. He seized opportunities to speak about his nation with the broader public in press interviews, public forums and conferences. Within the diplomatic community, of course, he built the relationships that allowed him to promote Djibouti's interests and those of his continent.

It is a testament to the largeness of Roble's personality, the boundlessness of his energy and the breadth of his ambition for Djibouti, and also for Africa as a whole, that his colleagues and friends in both New York and Washington, D.C., felt him as a full-time presence. Wherever he was, he was a tireless advocate for Djibouti and for economic development and trade on the African continent. It is true that he will not get to see the world's embrace of the new sustainable development goals in September, but it is no exaggeration to say that the agenda Roble pushed his entire career is one that will be enshrined in those goals.

How large a force was Roble? It is not every day that the President of the United States of America pays tribute to the passing of a member of our community here. But that is what President Obama did last week, crediting our beloved colleague for his personal role in helping secure the passage of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, a piece of legislation that assists the economies of sub-Saharan Africa, and praising Roble for the way he "represented his nation and all of Africa with pride". Roble projected tremendous pride: pride in Djibouti, pride in Africa and pride in what all of us could do if we put our minds to it.

We mourn the passing of Roble Olhaye as a colleague and as a friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Amina Farah Ahmed, and his five children and all who loved him and were loved by him. Early yesterday, an emotional Presidem Guelleh and most of the Djiboutian Cabinet were at the airport to greet the arrival of the Ambassador's remains. Given all he did for his country, his people and his continent, Roble's was a truly triumphant return. A grieving and forever grateful nation welcomes him home.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Djibouti

Miss. Hassan (Djibouti) (*spoke in French*): We were greatly moved and greatly saddened to hear of the death last week of His Excellency Mr. Roble Olhaye, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Djibouti to the United States of America and Permanent Representative of Djibouti to the United Nations. On behalf of the Government of Djibouti, I would like to thank the President of the General Assembly for having convened this meeting to pay tribute to Mr. Olhaye. Furthermore, I welcome the presence of the Secretary-General and all Member States that are here with us today. I would like to thank all those who took the floor before me for sharing their moving memories of Ambassador Olhaye. The homage of the General Assembly comes a day after his State funeral yesterday morning in Djbouti, where the highest-level governing bodies of the State of Djibouti were represented — including the President of Republic as well as the members of the Government and Parliament. The ceremony rightfully honoured his selfless services to the nation of Djbouti. Roble Olhaye's services helped to strengthen and bolster the influence of our nation's diplomacy at the international level.

The President of the Republic of Djibouti stressed that:

> "Our country's diplomacy has lost one of its most brilliant representatives and recognizes his contribution to our rapprochement with the United States and with Africa."

Ambassador Olhaye was a diplomat endowed with optimism and great confidence in the future of Africa. At the annual celebration during Africa Week in Washington, D.C. — which complements Africa Day in New York — that all of us here are familiar with, in reply to the question "What is there to celebrate?" his answer was:

(*spoke in English*)

> "There is a lot to celebrate. A lot of countries are doing very well — extremely well. Africa is not what you often read. It is not what you think. Africa is open for business."

(*spoke in French*)

During his long diplomatic career in the United States and at the United Nations, Ambassador Olhaye participated in and contributed to the development, negotiation and adoption of a number of intergovernmental processes in the General Assembly, the Security Council and in the Economic and Social Council, in which he held and took on various positions and responsibilities. We are unable to summarize all of his achievements in only a few minutes, but we would like to take this opportunity to recognize and celebrate the fact that Ambassador Olhaye — dean of the diplomatic corps in Washington, D.C., and at the United Nations — was an experienced diplomat, proud to serve the interests of his country through thick and thin. His long professional experience attests to the outstanding nature of his work at the bilateral level and his knowledge of the United Nations system, which was a real asset to our diplomacy. Ambassador Olhaye always defended the importance of multilateralism in addressing global collective challenges and was convinced of the ability of small States within the United Nations to exercise their influence and play a constructive role.

Many here had an opportunity to work and interact with Ambassador Olhaye and saw first-hand his dexterity and diplomatic experience on various issues. He was always willing to offer advice on, and discuss current matters with, all diplomats — whether junior or senior. We already miss his effective and wise leadership; his memory will live on in the friendly countries in which he served and among those of us who worked with him.

In these painful circumstances, all the diplomats and the staff of the Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York and those of the Embassy of Djibouti to the United States of America would like to reiterate their heartfelt condolences and sincere sympathy to his wife and five children, as well as to all the other members of the family and the friends and relatives of the deceased. Our thoughts are with them in this painful and difficult time, when they express their mourning in accordance with tradition in Djbouti, with: We implore Allah, the Almighty, to grant His immense mercy to Ambassador Olhaye.

I would like to conclude with an expression intended for such circumstances that many in the Assembly are familiar with: surely, to Allah we belong and to Him shall we return.

Agenda item 18 (*continued*)

Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2008 Review Conference

Draft resolution (A/69/L.82)

The President: I would like once again to congratulate and commend the Government of Ethiopia for successfully hosting the third International Conference on Financing for Development.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which was adopted by the Conference on 16 July, is a comprehensive framework for financing sustainable development, with concrete deliverables, policies and actions that will support the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. The edorsement of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda by the General Assembly today will further demonstrate our collective commitment to eradicating poverty, achieving sustainable development and building a better future for all. We should all do whatever it will takes to ensure that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda is fully implemented.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

The Secretary-General: Today, the General Assembly will take a major step on the path towards sustainable development and ending extreme poverty in all its forms. By endorsing the outcome document

of the third International Conference on Financing for Development, we launch a new era of cooperation and global partnership. We provide the foundation for success at the summit to adopt the post-2015 development agenda, to be held in New York in September, and at the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Paris in December.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda provides a new global framework for financing sustainable development. It provides incentives for investment in areas of global need and aligns financing flows and policies with economic, social and environmental priorities.

In addition to the agreements in the outcome document, many initiatives were launched, including the Addis Tax Initiative, increased commitments from development banks, and a new financing partnership for women's and children's health. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda provides a guide for actions by all stakeholders. It has laid down a strong foundation to support the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, including the sustainable development agenda. The Action Agenda also provides a strong accountability mechanism.

Next year's first Financing for Development Forum will give the international community an important opportunity to assess progress in implementation. Only by staying engaged will we ensure that the commitments we endorse today will lead to tangible progress on the ground, in all countries and for all people.

Allow me to express my deepest appreciation to you, Mr. President, for your admirable stewardship during these many months. Your leadership, patience and diplomatic skill enabled us to have a successful outcome. Let us also thank Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, who served as President of the Conference; Foreign Minister Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who was Chairman of the Main Committee; and the Government of Ethiopia for hosting this historic conference and bringing it to a successful conclusion. Their efforts and those of the co-facilitators, Ambassadors George Talbot of Guyana and Geir Pedersen of Norway, are greatly appreciated. And I thank the Member States for their engagement and flexibility in taking this critical step forward. By showing such flexibility, we have forged this document for all of the peoples of the world.

Lastly, I should like to thank Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo of the Department of Social and Economic Affairs for his efforts as the Secretary-General of the Conference. He and his staff worked with dedication for a successful outcome. We are now firmly on the path to a more prosperous, just and sustainable world for this and future generations.

The President: I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/69/L.82.

I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Botnaru (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): In connection with draft resolution A/69/L.82, entitled "Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)", I wish to put on record the following statement of financial implications on behalf of the Secretary-General, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

The implementation of the recommendations contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda would give rise to additional resource requirements under the regular budget and, possibly, extra-budgetary resources. However, the recommendations contained in the Action Agenda would require further assessment and consultations with all stakeholders in order to determine how the decisions contained in the Action Agenda are proposed to be implemented.

Accordingly, it is not possible for the Secretariat to determine at this stage the full extent of the programme budget implications arising from the draft resolution.

Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the Secretary-General will submit a detailed revised estimates report for the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 to the General Assembly for consideration at its seventieth session.

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/69/L.82, entitled "Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)". May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

Draft resolution A/69/L.82 was adopted (resolution 69/313).

The President: Before giving the floor to the speaker in explanation of position, may I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

I call on the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, who wishes to speak in explanation of position on the resolution just adopted.

Ms. Engelbrecht Schadtler (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela): I should like at the outset, on behalf of the people and the Government of Venezuela, to express our sincere condolences to the people and the Government of Djibouti on the passing of Ambassador Roble Olhaye.

(*spoke in Spanish*)

On behalf of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, I wish to reiterate our gratitude and congratulations to the people and the Government of Ethiopia for their hospitality and leadership at the third International Conference on Financing for Development. Our country fully supports the statement to be made later by South Africa in its capacity as Chair of the Group of 77 and China (G-77 and China).

With respect to the adoption of the Addis Ababa document, the delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela wishes to express some reservations on its content, because we believe that it does not fully reflect the diversity of opinions on matters related to sustainable development. The Addis Ababa Conference was an important effort towards the shared goal of creating the economic and social conditions necessary to eradicate poverty and exclusion.

As stated by French economist Thomas Piketty, achieving sustainable development must go hand in hand with a process involving the dissemination of knowledge and investment in capacity-building and training. Such mechanisms would lead to a greater increase in productivity and reduced inequality, both within and among countries.

Upon the adoption of resolution 69/313, entitled "Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)", the outcome of the Conference, Venezuela wishes to submits reservations on the following issues.

Concerning paragraph 31, as indicated at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), reference to the elimination of fossil-fuel subsidies is interventionist in the context of the public policies of the State. Venezuela will not accept any kind of evaluation, monitoring, reporting or review of our national energy policies or measures that affect our national sovereignty. That paragraph also distances itself from and substantially modifies the positions agreed on in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of 2002.

Concerning paragraphs 60 and 69, Venezuela rejects the references to low-carbon economies and the listing of new and innovative mechanisms, especially the mention of carbon-pricing mechanisms, for the same reasons I have just set out.

With respect to the reference to modern energy services for all in paragraph 49, we reiterate our reservation in this respect, as we did in the final document of Rio+20, "The future we want". That is because modern energy, in our opinion, involves the use of new technologies without the necessary assessment of their application in a national context or of priorities in technological development.

We deplore the deletion in paragraph 14 of the reference introduced by the G-77 and China on initiatives to expand the availability of financing, in particular through the establishment of new multilateral development banks, such as the Bank of the South, the Alba Bank and the Alba Fund, to complement existing international institutions. Legitimate concerns concerning the impact of trade barriers on developing countries were disregarded, as well as the negative effects of unilateral coercive measures, which threaten the sovereignty and self-determination of peoples.

Lastly, we would recall once again that Venezuela is not a party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and that the fact that we did not object to the text approved in this document cannot be interpreted as a change in our position on that Convention.

The President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of position.

I shall now give the floor to those members who wish to make statements following the adoption of resolution 69/313.

Mr. Mamabolo (South Africa): I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

The Group of 77 and China is most grateful to Ethiopia for hosting the recent third International Conference on Financing for Development. Furthermore, we would like to thank you, Mr. President, for convening this 99th plenary meeting of the General Assembly with a mandate to consider the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the third International Conference on Financing for Development, which concluded its work on 16 July. In that regard, we would also like to congratulate you, Sir, for your able stewardship and leadership with regard to the work and overall business of the current session of the General Assembly. I would also like to add that we are grateful to the facilitators, Ambassadors Talbot and Pedersen, for having led the process.

The Group of 77 and China would like to welcome the outcome document of the third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, now adopted under resolution 69/313. In our understanding, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda is complementary to and supplements the means of implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. In addition, as recognized in paragraph 19 of the Agenda, the post-2015 development agenda, including the sustainable development goals, can be met within the framework of a revitalized global partnership for sustainable development, supported by concrete policies and actions as outlined in the Action Agenda.

The Group sought to be constructive in the financing for development negotiations, in order to ensure that a meaningful and ambitious outcome from the process could be reached through good-faith intergovernmental deliberations. We supported frank and transparent negotiations towards a meaningful outcome. The Group has also been consistent in its efforts to galvanize all Member States and arrive at a common understanding that will ensure that financing for development remains relevant to the needs of developing countries.

Our participation in the negotiations that led to the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda was also based on our resolve to rid the world of poverty in all its forms. We call for this global partnership for development to be revitalized and reinvigorated, particularly as we advance towards the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda. We must, however, never lose sight of the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals in order that no one be left behind. Indeed, the work on implementation that lies ahead of us will not be easy. Through the revitalized and reinvigorated global partnership for development and the North-South cooperation in the centre thereof, we believe that more can be done to sufficiently finance development. This would make a huge impact in bridging the global economic disparities and inequalities that continue to characterize the current world economic system.

What is needed, therefore, is adequate financing, which is an area where developed countries should demonstrate leadership and unequivocal commitment in order assist all of us to finally defeat poverty. The private sector and South-South cooperation should complement such efforts. Accordingly, public international financing remains of paramount importance, where the North should play a prominent role.

The Group of 77 and China recognizes that progress has been achieved. The Group is on record as noting that compromise outcomes have been achieved in a number of key areas, including, for example, the call for a global infrastructure forum, more comprehensive treatment of the issue of debt sustainability, providing capacity-building and a technology transfer mechanism and dedicated mechanism for follow-up and review with intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations.

However, the position of the Group is also on record that there remain a number of issues of principle that are important to and fully endorsed by the Group that have not been adequately accommodated in the current text, including, but not limited to, the explicit reaffirmation of the key principle of common but differentiated responsibilities in the context of the global partnership for development. This principle remains relevant and valid and, indeed, is the basis for all international cooperation on sustainable development. An unequivocal affirmation of this principle in the outcome document of the post-2015 development is essential for moving forward.

Other areas that have not been adequately accommodated in the current text include the need to maintain the integrity of the third International Conference on Financing for Development and the post-2015 development agenda as separate processes, while acknowledging the need for stronger synergies between them; the need for development partners to meet

current commitments and scale up official development assistance (ODA) with binding timetables, including the reaffirmation that ODA remains the main source of development assistance; the need to address the diverse and specific development needs of middle-income countries in a coordinated manner through the establishment of a United Nations plan of action to that end that considers, inter alia, the multidimensional nature of development and poverty; the need to fully upgrade the Tax Committee into an intergovernmental body; the need to make an explicit reference to countries and peoples living under foreign occupation; the need to explicitly address the issue of lifting and terminating coercive measures, including unilateral economic sanctions; and the need to explicitly address the fact that climate financing is new and in addition to — and therefore cannot be counted as — ODA, nor can it be mixed with traditional development finance. The foregoing agreed principles are fundamental to the livelihoods of our people.

In the context of the current intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, the Group of 77 and China would like to reiterate the following. With regard to the relationship and/or interlinkages among means of implementation, aspects of the post-2015 development agenda and the outcome of the third International Conference on Financing for Development process, namely, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Group holds the view that the integrity of the post-2015 development agenda and financing for development process must be respected, as they are completely different in scope and purpose. The Group would also like to stress that the means of implementation of a post-2015 development agenda cannot be a substitute for nor be replaced by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Rather, the financing for development outcome from Addis Ababa should support and supplement the means of implementation for the post-2015 development agenda. The means of implementation set out in each goal and in goal 17 are a fundamental component of the post-2015 development agenda in their own right and an integral part of the agenda that we are currently negotiating.

The Group of 77 and China would like to reiterate that it has not abandoned its principled positions, whose objectives are to continue to strive for a just world economic system in the spirit of multilateralism, ensure that the global partnership for development is genuine and adequately resourced, and assist in reversing the years of chronic underdevelopment and poverty that continue to affect developing countries.

The President: I now give the floor to the observer of the European Union.

Mr. Mayr-Harting (European Union) (*spoke in French*): On the occasion of the loss of Mr. Roble Olhaye, Permanent Representative of Djibouti and dean of the diplomatic corps, I wish to begin my statement today with the expression of the deepest condolences of the members of the European Union and my personal condolences to his family and to the people and Government of Djibouti.

(*spoke in English*)

On behalf of the European Union and its member States, I would also like to join in expressing profound appreciation and congratulations to our Ethiopian hosts for the successful organization of the third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July. I would also like to profit from this occasion to thank you, Mr. President, for your personal, strong engagement in this matter. I acknowledge the earlier presence of the Secretary-General and his engagement in the matter as well. We would like to particularly thank Ambassadors Geir Pedersen and George Talbot for their tireless efforts during the past month. All their work is greatly appreciated, and I think that we can all say that the Addis Ababa Conference has been a resounding success.

The landmark Addis Ababa Action Agenda provides us with a means to implement the post-2015 agenda with its sustainable development goals. Together we have agreed to an ambitious vision that addresses the full spectrum of the means of implementation. Together we have agreed that everyone will need to take action to achieve the post-2015 agenda. The true value and strength of the Addis Ababa Agenda is its comprehensiveness — a success that should not be put at risk by any attempt to renegotiate selected subjects. By bringing together domestic resources, investments, international public finance — including official development assistance — and good policies, it shows that action on all fronts will be necessary to succeed in our common fight against poverty, inequality and exclusion and for sustainable development. By integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced manner, it paves the way towards a single universal framework and set of goals.

The European Union will continue to contribute its share to that effort, both domestically and abroad, with a particular focus on countries most in need and the continent of Africa. The European Union is the most open market in the world for developing countries, the world's largest donor and a pioneer in the design and use of innovative financing mechanisms. In our view, the successful outcome of the Conference symbolizes Africa's contribution to multilateralism. It also constitutes the first and critical step towards the adoption of the post-2015 agenda in September and the Paris Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21) in December. By mainstreaming sustainable development in our common agenda and by mobilizing all actors for its implementation, it provides us with the momentum we need to achieve success at the September summit in New York and to conclude an ambitious and universal agreement on climate at COP 21 in Paris.

Mr. Mnisi (Swaziland), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The world has changed dramatically over the past decades, including the nature and magnitude of our global challenges, their cause and effects and our respective capabilities to address them. The post-2015 development agenda needs to respond to those evolving dynamics. We will continue to engage constructively in the upcoming preparations for the September 2015 summit. We still have some way to go, but the agreement in Addis Ababa has brought us a lot closer.

With regard to the oral statement on programme budget implications read out by the representative of the Secretariat in connection with the recommendations contained in resolution 69/313, we understand that detailed estimates will be presented in accordance with applicable rules. Today's statement does not prejudge the Secretary-General's submission to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee for the proposed budget for the 2016-2017 biennium, which should first and foremost consider all cost-effective ways of addressing resource requirements, if any, and the possibility of financing through the redeployment of existing resources. We believe that we should strive to achieve increased transparency regarding budgetary figures, and any oral statements on programme budget implications should be provided to the Member States in advance.

Ms. Rambally (Saint Lucia): I wish to take this opportunity to express the heartfelt condolences of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on the passing of the Permanent Representative of Djibouti.

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the 14 States members of the Caribbean Community. We wish to align ourselves with the statement delivered by the representative of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and with the statement to be delivered later today by the representative of Maldives on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States.

The outcome of the third International Conference on Financing for Development — the Addis Ababa Action Agenda adopted in Ethiopia — is the culmination of an inter-governmental process that began only a few months ago in October 2014. The process involved multiple rounds of substantive informal sessions with Member States and informal hearings with civil society and the business sector. The drafting sessions and substantive negotiations that followed were intense and protracted at times. In that regard, CARICOM wishes to place on record our commendation to the co-facilitators of the preparatory process, Ambassadors George Talbot of Guyana and Geir Pedersen of Norway, for their committed leadership and fortitude in guiding us to an adopted outcome document. We also wish to commend the Government and the people of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for their hosting of a successful conference.

CARICOM welcomes the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, as presented for our consideration in resolution 69/313. The outcome provides a basis for forging an enhanced global partnership with the objectives of fostering universal and inclusive economic prosperity and improving people's well-being while protecting the environment. It details a financial plan to address a wide range of issues, including social inequality, climate change, technology, data collection and capacity-building. The action areas noted in the document will be central to the achievement of our collective sustainable development, as laid out in paragraph 19 of the outcome document before us. The post-2015 development agenda, including the sustainable development goals, can be met within the framework of a revitalized global partnership for sustainable development, supported by the concrete policies and actions outlined in the Action Agenda. That is to say, the Action Agenda will support and complement the means for implementing the post-2015 development agenda.

CARICOM takes this opportunity to reiterate a few key issues that must be addressed as we move forward to ensure that Caribbean small island developing countries (SIDS) are in a position to realize the full and beneficial potential of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. We must reaffirm that full consideration shall continue to be given to the peculiar development needs of SIDS, as defined in the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway, cognizant of the necessary identification of the financial instruments and financial resources, including new and additional resources to address SIDS' major development challenges arising, inter alia, from trade liberalization; global environmental degradation, including climate change; global security and other issues specifically targeted for attention in the post-2015 development agenda.

We also reiterate our call on international financial institutions to design and implement appropriate risk-management instruments to fully address the vulnerability associated with the natural disasters and climate-related risk that disrupt the development process in Caribbean SIDS. Finally, we reiterate our call for urgent consideration to be given to the unsustainable and persistent high level of debt that results in the limited fiscal space that continues to hinder the CARICOM region's path to sustainable development and will undermine the region's achievement of the sustainable development goals.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called the Addis Ababa Action Agenda a major step forward in building a world of prosperity and dignity for all. Our collective next step will be the successful realization of that agenda — the implementation of the commitments, revised policies and agreements contained therein on the path to realizing our sustainable development. CARICOM reaffirms its support for all efforts aimed at the full realization of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which is a critical component of the sustainable development agenda of our region and that of all Member States.

Mr. Sareer (Maldives): May I convey my deep condolences to the Government of Djibouti on the loss of our dear colleague, the Permanent Representative of Djibouti, Ambassador Roble Olhaye. May I also take this opportunity to convey our heartfelt condolences to the Government and the people of India on the sad demise of Sri A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the former President of India.

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). We align ourselves with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

We join others in commending the co-facilitators, coordinators and negotiators who helped make this document a reality. Let me extend our warmest thanks to our gracious hosts, the people and the Government of Ethiopia, who played a pivotal role throughout that process. AOSIS welcomes the Addis Ababa Action Agenda as a supportive document complementary to the realization of the post-2015 development agenda, including the sustainable development goals. As we all eagerly await the convening of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to be held in Paris, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda is also a further reaffirmation of the financial commitments made under the UNFCCC process.

What we have achieved here today is another stepping stone on the path towards addressing the greatest challenges faced by the global community. May the seeds we have planted grow to fruition in the coming months and years. The framework we have created is geared to addressing the three dimensions of sustainable development. It recognizes fundamentally that development is holistic and that viable solutions for national development are possible only through increased political will, enhanced partnerships and committed action.

The small island developing States (SIDS) have engaged actively throughout the negotiation process, and welcome the recognition of the special case of SIDS in development and the specific provisions for its implementation that this recognition entails, including the linkages with the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway. Although much of the language in the document can be strengthened, we remain convinced that this is the time to fucs on the early start to the implementation of the outcome document (resolution 69/313, annex) and the full realization of the commitments outlined therein.

AOSIS remains committed to the full realization of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Our goal is to eradicate poverty and realize sustainable development.

Mr. Minami (Japan): Japan welcomes the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda by the Assembly

(resolution 69/313, annex). I would like to take this opportunity to express our deep gratitude to the people and Government of Ethiopia for their generosity and warm hospitality, as well as their dedication to making the conference a great success. I also thank the two co-facilitators of the process, Ambassador George Talbot of Guyana and Ambassador Geir Pedersen of Norway, for their tireless work.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda builds on and adds value to the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration. Japan is starting to implement it in earnest, and expects others to do the same. The Addis Ababa Agenda gives us huge momentum to move forward positively on the rest of the negotiation tracks in this important year, in particular the post-2015 development agenda. As was agreed in Addis Ababa, the post-2015 development agenda will be supported by the concrete policies and actions outlined in the Agenda. I call on all Member States to honour the agreements made in Addis Ababa and refrain from renegotiating it on other tracks. We should also take due care in integrating the relevant parts of the Addis Ababa Agenda into the post-development agenda, such as the follow-up mechanism.

Lastly, let me emphasize the importance of ensuring a transparent and a rules-based procedure on the budgetary aspects of all actions taken by the Assembly. The substance of our discussion in this organ is too important to risk any lack of implementation through the United Nations. From that point of view, budgetary aspects should be given due attention and the timeline set in accordance with the relevant rules of the Assembly.

Mr. Antonio de Aguiar Patriota (Brazil): Let me too start by expressing our heartfelt condolences to the people and the Government of Djibouti and to the family of our very dear colleague, Roble Olhaye, who will be greatly missed by all those who admired his exceptional professional and personal qualities.

Let me also take this opportunity, first, to express a warm word of appreciation to the people and Government of Ethiopia, who so generously hosted the third International Conference on Financing for Development in the lovely city of Addis Ababa two weeks ago. We welcome the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda by the General Assembly. I think we must recognize the great contribution made not only by Ambassadors Pedersen of Norway and Talbot of Guyana, but also and very especially, too, by the President of the General Assembly, Mr. Sam Kutesa, who exercised leadership and wisdom in the final stages of the negotiation process.

Brazil aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of South Africa, our colleague Ambassador Mamabolo, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. I would like to present the following additional comments in our national capacity.

The third International Conference on Financing for Development outcome document (resolution 69/313, annex) constitutes an important first step on the way to implementing the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and the post-2015 development agenda as a whole. The Addis Ababa outcome has mainstreamed sustainable development into the financing for development framework by recognizing the integration among its three dimensions — social, economic and environmental — in order to make it consistent with the shared vision put forward by our Heads of State and Government at the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, a process that will culminate in the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs in September.

Financing for development has proved to be a valuable, independent process with a scope and challenge of its own, and has made a significant contribution to the implementation of the sustainable development goals. As such, the Addis outcome supports goal 17 and other means of implementation of the SDGs, as stated in its paragraph 19. They complement the existing goal-specific means of implementation, as well as stand-alone goal 17, which are integrated and should be preserved as they are, as essential elements of the framework of goals and targets of our universal agenda.

The dedicated and integrated follow-up and review of the Addis outcome is another positive result of the Conference and will also contribute to the overall follow-up and review of implementation of the post-2015 agenda as a whole. The establishment of a technology facilitation mechanism, in addition to being one of the concrete results of Addis, also constitutes an example of constructive North-South dialogue that has helped us make progress on an issue that is very relevant for most and still sensitive for some.

Allow me to recall that Member States have agreed that the entire text of paragraph 123 of the Addis outcome will be inserted into the post-2015 development agenda, and that agreement needs to be honoured now. The Addis outcome poses the right

questions. We need to make sure that we are able to articulate the right answers to them. In that context, we reaffirm the importance of the mobilization of new and additional resources for development in a way that not only strengthens our commitment to the implementation of the Addis outcome, but also promotes greater ambition in mobilizing new and additional means of implementation for the sustainable development goals.

Notwithstanding the progress in Addis, we regret that there was no consensus to upgrade the tax committee to an intergovernmental body, as proposed by the Group of 77 and China and widely supported by civil society, renowned economists and policy-makers around the world, not to mention the media. As we look beyond Addis and to the process that is still ongoing during this important year for the United Nations, we are encouraged by the acknowledgement in the political declaration of the post-2015 agenda of the interlinkages with the financing for development, and we reaffirm our strong determination to continue to contribute to building "the future we want".

Ms. Mikkelsen (New Zealand): The Government of New Zealand welcomes the outcome of the third International Conference on Financing for Development. We commend the efforts of all those who worked relentlessly over the last month to reach agreement on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (resolution 69/313, annex). We thank the Government of Ethiopia and co-facilitators Norway and Guyana for their leadership in coordinating a wide range of views to reach agreement and to bring the Conference to a successful outcome.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda is a historic global commitment. It creates a framework that harnesses the diverse range of sources available to finance development, end poverty and ensure that no one is left behind. It makes landmark commitments to empowering girls and women to participate as equals in decision-making. New Zealand welcomes the agenda's recognition of the constraints that small island developing States face in attaining their development aspirations and the commitment of the global community to addressing these constraints.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda represents a strong global commitment to development, but our work is only beginning. Now is the time to set aside remaining differences and tackle long-standing obstacles to poverty reduction. One example is reform of the international trading system. A successful conclusion to the Doha Round and reforms to improve agricultural market access and eliminate export subsidies could have a transformative impact on developing countries.

New Zealand reaffirms its commitment to turning the words of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda into actions that have meaning. We will ensure that our policies, investments and efforts deliver strong results to developing countries within this new framework for development in financing. We look forward to working in effective, transparent and impactful partnerships towards our common goal to end poverty, build resilience and improve shared prosperity across the globe.

Ms. Mejía Vélez (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to offer my sincere condolences on the passing of the dean of the diplomatic corps, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Djibouti to the United Nations. As many who have spoken before me have said, he played a very important role for us. He was the first person who met us and gave us advice. I express my most heartfelt sympathy to his family and the people and the Government of Djibouti.

I am grateful for the timely convening of this meeting to take action on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (resolution 69/313, annex) of the third International Conference on Financing for Development. I thank President Sam Kutesa for his exemplary leadership in bringing us to the adoption of the agenda; of course, I am grateful to the people and the Government of Ethiopia for their hospitality and the organization of the Conference. George Talbot of Guyana and Geir Pedersen of Norway played key roles in negotiations. I thank them both.

We support the statement made by Ambassador Mamabolo of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Colombia welcomes the Addis Ababa Action Agenda as the basis for building the framework for the financing necessary to effectively support the implementation of the new agenda. We believe that the Addis Ababa document complements all of the means of implementation for the post-2015 development agenda. That complementary element is very important because, while we recognize that the Addis Ababa outcome document contains very important components, it neither includes nor exhausts all of the tools and mechanisms needed for the implementation of the new agenda.

Allow me to highlight some of the elements that are of great importance to developing countries, such as the mandate for the establishment of a global infrastructure forum that will make it possible to close existing gaps; the mandate to establish a technology facilitation mechanism; the creation of an Economic and Social Council forum to follow up on the process of financing for development, with universal intergovernmental participation; the call on the United Nations development system to respond appropriately to the challenges facing middle-income countries; the recognition of the needs of countries in conflict and post-conflict situations; and, of course, the appeal to the United Nations to develop transparent measurements of sustainable development that go beyond those of per capita income and recognize poverty in its many dimensions and structural gaps that hinder sustainable development. My country believes that we must respect the integrity of the post-2015 development agenda as well as the financing for development process, which are two completely different processes in terms of scope and purpose.

The results of the third Conference for Financing for Development, which we have just endorsed, represent a major step forward in revitalizing and strengthening the global alliance for development. We are also convinced, however, that we must continue to work to achieve an ambitious transformative framework that will be commensurate with the current challenges and allow us to close the major technological, economic and social gaps that, despite the major progress that we have made, persist at all levels.

It has not been an easy process. Despite the differences and the difficult negotiations, I am convinced that the path we are on — and which will continue with the endorsement of the post-2015 development agenda and the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change — will establish a basis for sustainable development and the well-being that our countries deserve and need.

Mrs. Ravilova-Borovik (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We wish first to join in the words of condolence and support offered to the family and friends of the late Ambassador of Djibouti.

The Russian Federation attaches particular importance to the challenge of ensuring that the new post-2015 development agenda enjoys the necessary resources for its implementation. The Russian delegation actively contributed to preparing the outcome document of the third International Conference for Financing for Development (resolution 69/313, annex) and fully supports its adoption by the General Assembly today. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda represents an important step towards improving the effectiveness of mobilizing resources for attaining the sustainable development goals. We believe that the implementation of the programme will help to strengthen the catalyst role of official development assistance, stimulate the mobilization of private and public domestic financing, give impetus to development investment financing and improve long-term financing mechanisms.

We believe that as a result of the enormous amount of work carried out, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda is robust and ambitious and warrants inclusion in the post-2015 development agenda. I this opportunity to thank the people and the Government of Ethiopia for their hospitality and their efficient organization and hosting of the third International Conference on Financing for Development.

In conclusion, I underscore that our delegation is prepared to cooperate and engage in a fruitful exchange of opinion on different aspects of the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda so as to ensure an optimal return from its implementation, especially in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

Mr. Erdman (United States of America): I would like to take this opportunity to again thank the Government and the people of Ethiopia for being wonderful hosts for the historic and important third International Conference on Financing for Development. We especially want to thank Prime Minister Desalegn and Foreign Minister Ghebreyesus for personally helping shepherd us to a final agreement on the important text before us (resolution 69/313, annex). My Government thanks the Secretary-General, the Under-Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the financing for development secretariat for their support of the Conference.

We also want to give special thanks to the co-facilitators, Ambassador Pedersen and Ambassador Talbot, for their strong leadership throughout this process. They ably guided this negotiation over the past eight months, helping to build consensus on an ambitious framework that will help us towards our goal of eradicating extreme poverty and achieving sustainable development. We came together to deepen our collective commitment to ending extreme poverty, promoting inclusive growth and providing the means

to implement our ambitious post-2015 development agenda. We are happy to celebrate that achievement with everyone today, and to work together with all delegations to carry forward the momentum from Addis Ababa to a successful conclusion of the post-2015 negotiations.

Mr. Shcherbakov (Ecuador) (*spoke in Spanish*): Allow me to express our most heartfelt sorrow and sincere condolences upon the passing of the Permanent Representative of Djibouti, Mr. Roble Olhaye.

I thank the people and the Government of Ethiopia for organizing the third International Conference on Financing for Development, and commend the co-facilitators, Ambassadors Talbot and Pedersen, for their leadership and arduous work throughout the process.

In associating ourselves with the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and affirming our complete commitment to all the causes shared by all developing countries, Ecuador wishes to ratify its rejection of the position whereby a State is considered to be just another player in resource mobilization and poverty eradication. We firmly believe that, on the contrary, the State, given its intrinsic responsibility, is the key actor in the global alliance for development because it legitimately possesses the capacities to plan, manage and oversee investments through public policy to generate pro-development dynamics. But the global alliance must also be joined by all States, and other stakeholders will have to align themselves and act in accordance with the policy guidelines that the States issue.

Furthermore, my delegation wishes to reiterate the reservations it expressed in its closing statement in the discussions in Addis Ababa on paragraph 31 and the first sentence of paragraph 113 of resolution 69/313, as well as the explanations of our national positions that were set out in writing and sent to the financing for development secretariat prior to our statement in Addis. Against that backdrop, we add a voice to the consensus and welcome of the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda by the General Assembly.

My delegation also wishes to express its concern regarding the recording of Ecuador's statement at the close of the conference. In that regard, our delegation clearly explained its lack of agreement and reservations with the two paragraphs mentioned: paragraphs 31 and 113. In other words, Ecuador has two reservations regarding the Addis Ababa outcome document. There are 17 paragraphs concerning which Ecuador explained its national position on the interpretation of those paragraphs or parts thereof.

(*spoke in English*)

That clearly means that our delegation listed 17 explanations of national position but has not expressed reservations regarding these paragraphs and does not oppose them. We believe that a reservation is clearly different from an explanation of national position.

(*spoke in Spanish*)

For the aforementioned reasons, Ecuador expresses its concern at the quality of translation at events as important as that of Addis Ababa. We therefore call upon the Secretariat to exercise greater vigilance with regard to the expertise of the interpreters at such meetings, especially when it comes to substantive topics that may be very sensitive to Member States. We also request that all the necessary corrections be made at the communications portals of the United Nations. A copy of this request will be given in writing to the Secretariat, as well as the original statement of 16 July, both in Spanish and English, in order to facilitate interpretation.

Mrs. Rubiales de Chamorro (Nicaragua) (*spoke in Spanish*): First of all, I wish to add my voice to those who have expressed their condolences on the passing away of our friend, Ambassador Roble Olhaye, Permanent Representative of Djibouti. I also wish to extend our condolences to his family, his friends and the Government of Djibouti.

I would like to thank the President of the General Assembly, His Excellency Mr. Sam Kutesa, for all his efforts and leadership to achieve the success of the third International Conference on Financing for Development. We also wish once again to thank the Government and the people of Ethiopia for their hospitality and all their support to us. I also thank the co-facilitators.

Nicaragua aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier today by the representative of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. In our national capacity, we would like to take this opportunity to explain our position.

Our country was extremely flexible during the negotiations in Addis Ababa. Our Minister stayed in constant contact with the Minister of Ethiopia.

We were, I believe, a very important part of the consensus achieved in Addis Ababa. Nevertheless, we must reaffirm some aspects of vital importance to us, especially with regard to the current negotiating process on the post-2015 agenda.

First, we wish to reiterate the importance of common but differentiated responsibilities in the context of the global alliance for development. That principle is relevant as a basis for all international cooperation aimed at sustainable development. That principle must be an integral, central part of the post-2015 agenda. We must keep the process of financing for development separate from the post-2015 development agenda, but we must strengthen the synergies between the two. That process must continue until developed countries meet their financial commitments to developing countries.

We would also like to clarify that many delegations have asked for increases in official development assistance in order to implement the sustainable development goals. That request was approved at Addis Ababa. If developed countries were to meet the commitments they made in paragraphs 43 and 44 of resolution 2626 (XXV), of 24 October 1970, which was adopted by consensus, with a timeline for compliance of October 1975, official development aid would more than double, from the current 0.29 per cent of gross domestic product to 0.7 per cent.

We also want to clarify that climate financing is extra. At no time should it be classified as part of official development assistance. We also want to stress the fact that there is no single formula or set of measures applicable to all countries when it comes to financing for development. Countries should therefore safeguard their political space to legislate, establish and apply feasible or necessary measures and standards.

We must avoid coercive unilateral measures that violate international law and are an obstacle to the development plans of our countries, such as the universally rejected blockade on our sister Republic of Cuba. We would like specifically to mention countries living under territorial occupation. Our country is in solidarity with the struggle and cause of the Palestinian people.

Mr. Cripton (Canada): At the outset, I would like to join others in expressing our condolences to the people of Djibouti on the passing away of their Permanent Representative to the United Nations, who also served as the non-resident Ambassador of Djibouti to Canada. We mourn his loss.

We would like to extend our congratulations to the people of Ethiopia for their successful stewardship of the third International Conference on Financing for Development. We would also like to convey our sincerest appreciation to the co-facilitators, Ambassador Pedersen of Norway and Ambassador Talbot of Guyana, for their tireless efforts to bring us to consensus. We would also like to thank our partners for the spirit of cooperation and flexibility that enabled us to conclude the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

The Addis Ababa Agenda provides a framework for the mobilization of resources from all sources for the achievement of sustainable development and the elimination of extreme poverty. It will provide us with the means to implement the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals. The measures set out in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda have the potential to transform the lives of billions and to allow us to attain the future we want.

Inevitably, however, in a document of this nature, there are some points where language could benefit from greater precision. While I will not repeat what we stated at the closing of the Conference in Addis Ababa, we will draw other delegations' attention to our explanation of position, particularly with regard to paragraphs 64 and 117.

In conclusion, I would like to once again congratulate the people of Ethiopia, who contributed to the achievement of this historic outcome.

Mrs. Özgür (Turkey): At the outset, we would like to join previous speakers in extending our condolences to the Government and the people of Djibouti on the passing away of a master, the Permanent Representative of Djibouti.

We would like to again extend our gratitude to the people and the Government of Ethiopia for their hospitality. Thanks to their warm welcome and excellent organization, the Addis Ababa Conference became not only a memorable event, but also a successful meeting in this year of historic significance for sustainable development. We also would like to take this opportunity to once again express our appreciation to the co-facilitators, the Permanent Representatives of Guyana and Norway, Ambassador Talbot and Ambassador Pedersen, for the leadership and tireless

efforts, as well as the dedication, transparency and constructiveness they displayed during the negotiations in New York.

Addis Ababa has set an important precedent for the United Nations summit to adopt the post-2015 development agenda, to be held in New York from 25 to 27 September, and the Paris 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference, to be held from 30 November to 11 December. We are continuing to establish the framework of the global development agenda for the next 15 years, including even this week, during which we hope to finalize the draft outcome document of the sustainable development summit. Turkey is glad that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda offers a comprehensive and transformative approach that encompasses different dimensions of the global development agenda with specific deliverables, such as the technology facilitation mechanism.

Lastly, the reference made in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to which Turkey is not party, cannot be construed as a change in the established legal and political position of the Republic of Turkey with regard to that instrument.

Mr. Alemu (Ethiopia): My delegation would like to say how immeasurable our loss of Ambassador Roble Olhaye is. We have lost a teacher, an adviser and a friend.

Let me express the heartfelt satisfaction of my Government for the honour and privilege bestowed upon Ethiopia to host the third International Conference on Financing for Development. I would like to thank all the delegations that took the floor to express kind words to my Government. My delegation would like to take this opportunity to thank His Excellency Mr. Sam Kutesa, President of the General Assembly, for his decisive contribution during the negotiations to bring the process to a conclusion. By any measure, what the President did went beyond the call of duty, and we sincerely express our gratitude. We would also like to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General and to Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo and his colleagues in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. My delegation would like to pay tribute to the two co-facilitators, Ambassador George Talbot of Guyana and Ambassador Geir Pedersen of Norway, for the outstanding leadership they exhibited in guiding the process, and we profusely thank them for their tireless efforts to bring the process to a successful conclusion. Our appreciation also goes out to the Group of 77 and China and our development partners for their constructive engagement and for the contributions they made for a successful outcome in Addis Ababa. My delegation would also like to thank the Secretariat and all those involved in making the Addis Ababa Conference a success. The Government and the people of Ethiopia are very grateful and remain indebted for the support.

Although it first appeared an impossible task, the spirit of a win-win approach finally prevailed, making it possible at Addis Ababa to go beyond Monterey. That should be the spirit that needs to be brought to bear on the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda. The tone was set in Addis Ababa, and we are confident that we will bring our work on the post-2015 development agenda to fruition in a similar fashion.

The President: I should now once again like to express my gratitude to the Government of Ethiopia for successfully hosting the third International Conference on Financing for Development and for its able stewardship of the deliberations through the Main Committee, which brought the process to a successful conclusion. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to Ambassador George Wilfred Talbot of Guyana and Ambassador Geir Pedersen of Norway for accepting to undertake the roles of co-facilitators and for so ably and patiently conducting the discussions and complex negotiations in the informal consultations. Those consultations contributed immensely to the positive outcome of the Conference. Finally, I would like to thank all Member States for their valuable contributions to the successful completion of the process. I am sure members of the Assembly join me in extending our sincere appreciation to the Government of Ethiopia and to the co-facilitators.

The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 18.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

United Nations A/69/PV.100

General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session

Official Records

100th plenary meeting
Thursday, 30 July 2015, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Kutesa (Uganda)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Antoine (Grenada), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 13 (*continued*)

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Draft resolution (A/69/L.80)

The Acting President: Members will recall that the Assembly held a debate on agenda item 13 and its sub-item (a) jointly with agenda item 115 at its 51st plenary meeting, on 14 November 2014. Members will also recall that under agenda item 13, the Assembly adopted resolution 69/288 at its 81st plenary meeting, on 5 March 2015.

I have the honour to make the following statement on behalf of His Excellency Sam Kutesa, President of the General Assembly:

"I would like to commend the delegations of Gabon and Germany and the many sponsors of draft resolution A/69/L.80 for this important initiative and step forward in addressing the serious implications of illicit trafficking in wildlife. The draft resolution calls for effective measures to prevent and counter the serious problem of crimes that have an impact on the environment, particularly illicit trafficking in wildlife and wildlife products.

"It is essential to take decisive steps at the national level to prevent, combat and eradicate the illegal trade in wildlife, on both the supply and demand sides, including by strengthening the legislation necessary for preventing, investigating and prosecuting such illegal trade. We also need to further strengthen regional and international cooperation to effectively deal with that challenge.

"Illegal wildlife trafficking not only threatens species and ecosystems, it affects the livelihoods of local communities and diminishes tourism attractions. It compromises efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development. Given the role of organized criminal networks, armed groups and even terrorist groups in illegal wildlife trafficking, this scourge also carries with it serious security implications for many countries and regions. The adoption of today's draft resolution and its effective implementation will be crucial to our collective efforts to combat illicit trafficking in wildlife worldwide."

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Emmanuel Issoze-Ngondet, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Francophonie and Regional Integration of Gabon, to introduce draft resolution A/69/L.80.

Mr. Issoze-Ngondet (Gabon) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I would like to say how glad I am to be in the General Assembly today for this plenary meeting, and especially since the subject of draft resolution A/69/L.80, under consideration today, combating the poaching and illicit trafficking of wild fauna and flora,

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

15-23794 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

is one of my country's top priorities. I would therefore like to convey to the President, on behalf of Mr. Ali Bongo Ondimba, the President and Head of State of the Republic of Gabon, our thanks for organizing this important meeting. I am deeply grateful to Germany, in its capacity as co-author of the draft resolution, as well as to the group of friends who have worked tirelessly throughout the negotiations. And of course my thanks also go to all delegations for the constant support they have shown during the process.

It was in 2013, here at the United Nations, that we launched this initiative against the poaching and illicit trafficking in wildlife. On that occasion, addressing himself to the entire world, President Ali Bongo Ondimba drew attention to the extremely destructive effects of poaching and the importance of acting quickly and cooperatively in order to combat the problem. He took care to point out that wildlife poaching is at once an environmental, economic and security threat. He then proposed that the Secretary-General consider appointing a special envoy to coordinate the various efforts required to fight this illicit trade. At that point it was already a very profitable enterprise and highly attractive activity whose dividends drive the perpetrators to brave all the risks it carries.

Take, for example, the situation of elephants, symbols of the ravages of poaching in Africa. In 2006, their population consisted of about 550,000 individuals. Today they are estimated at about 470,000 throughout the African continent. Over the years, the devastation has reached extreme proportions, with between 20,000 and 30,000 elephants killed each year. Gabon, which is home to more than half of the elephants in Africa's forests, has also been heavily hit by this scourge. Since 2004, nearly 20,000 elephants have been killed in our country's national parks. Today the threat of poaching continues to grow. Illicit trafficking in wildlife is estimated at $19 billion a year and is the fourth-highest type of illegal trafficking in the world. It damages the environment, it represents a genuine health risk and it is a drag on our economies. And, ultimately, it is a threat to security, particularly in some regions of Africa.

The impact of illicit wildlife trafficking on the environment is well established. It contributes significantly to ecological imbalances in our forests. The pressure it places on fauna has undermined the ability of many species to survive. If we do not act now, their extinction could become a strong probability.

Trafficking is a health risk. In fact, the clandestine nature of poaching increases the risk of the spread of illnesses. Many species cross borders and thereby avoid the monitoring of health-care services. According to studies by the World Wildlife Fund, such trafficking represents at least one quarter of all animals sold worldwide. For its part, the World Health Organization estimates that nearly 75 per cent of emerging diseases are transmitted to humans by wild animals.

Trafficking hinders the economic development of our countries. Poachers and other traffickers disrupt the stability of businesses in remote areas. The instability caused by the regular attacks by these traffickers is likely to deter investment and undermines the implementation of sustainable development programmes. The ecotourism industry is significantly affected, although it is obviously one of the most reliable sources of income and employment for local populations.

Illicit trafficking in wildlife is a source of national and regional instability. As a manifestation of transnational organized crime, trafficking generates roaming armed groups that are well structured and often better armed than regular armies. It has been noted in recent years that armed terrorist groups, operating in Africa in particular, are using poaching and illegal trafficking of wildlife to increase their incomes. Such trafficking generates illicit funds that allow the groups to acquire the most sophisticated weapons. Their methods are inspired from drug traffickers, which contributes to the proliferation of arms in Africa.

In tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife, we have no choice but to cooperate. No State can overcome this phenomenon on its own. As with drug trafficking and human trafficking, we are dealing with well-organized international criminal networks that are greedy for profit. A concerted effort on the part of the international community seems to me to be essential. The countries of origin, transit and destination must work together. No lasting results can be achieved if this chain is not strong. In that chain, the countries that are most concerned are not on one side, with those that are less concerned on the other. The glaring truth is that a lack of involvement on the part of some will undermine the effectiveness of our approaches and thereby contribute to the entrenchment and perpetuation of the phenomenon. Only with solidarity and cooperation can we be effective. That is the principle that has guided Gabon, Germany and the Group of Friends.

The President of the Republic, Mr. Ali Bongo Ondimba, has long been personally and continuously committed to calling on the international community whenever he has had the opportunity to do so. In Marrakesh in May 2013, alongside some of his African peers, he stressed the need to raise such trafficking to the level of a serious crime. In Paris in December 2013, he denounced the activities of poachers and highlighted the link between poaching and national instability. In London in February 2014, he reiterated the importance of immediate and significant international action. In Kasane in March 2015, he called for strengthening measures against the illegal trade in wildlife.

At the national level, the Head of State has undertaken symbolic actions of great significance from the outset. For example, in June 2012 he ordered the incineration of Gabon's entire ivory stock in the name of protecting elephants. At this initiative, the Government has with the utmost resolve strengthened the legal regime of sanctions against traffickers in order to make it more deterrent. Moreover, programmes to strengthen the capacities of the environmental rangers who oversee national parks have been developed with the support of friendly countries and international friends. Gabon has thus demonstrated a strong and obvious determination to eradicate illicit wildlife trafficking.

Draft resolution A/69/L.80 before us today is sponsored by more than 70 States and certainly presents an opportunity to coordinate our actions. It would allow us to implement a comprehensive mechanism that would take all the dimensions of this issue into account. We believe that the General Assembly is an important political platform for achieving this goal. I welcome the fact that the draft resolution takes into account and highlights the dimensions of the phenomenon, including the damage caused by trafficking on ecosystems. It underlines the importance of strengthening international cooperation so that effective action can be undertaken to mitigate both the supply and the demand. It takes into account the impact of trafficking on the living conditions of populations, especially those whose livelihoods depend on ecotourism. It encourages States to strengthen sustainable development policies and to find alternative livelihoods for rural communities affected by illicit trafficking and poaching.

Furthermore, the draft resolution recognizes that the phenomenon is a form of organized transnational crime and hence a direct threat not only to wildlife, but also to the security of States, the rule of law and good governance. The draft resolution therefore calls for proactive cooperation and more significant regional coordination. It calls on the United Nations, especially its specialized agencies, to continue its support to Member States, notably through capacity-building. It provides for the possibility for the Secretary-General to appoint a special envoy mandated with mobilizing interest and significant support against this phenomenon. The Secretary-General is also invited to present an annual report. I cannot thus but recommend its adoption, being convinced that the draft resolution is in form and in content a synthesis of the different views of Member States on this subject.

In conclusion, I thank all delegations that participated in the negotiations. They demonstrated a willingness to compromise that allowed us to conclude our debates on a positive note. I would also like to thank all agencies of the United Nations and the non-governmental organizations that have played an active part throughout the process.

Finally, I commend all States that have agreed to sponsor this draft resolution and hope that it will be adopted by consensus.

The Acting President: We will now proceed to consider draft resolution A/69/L.80.

In connection with draft resolution A/69/L.80, I now give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Zhang Saijin (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): In connection with draft resolution A/69/L.80, entitled "Tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife", I wish to put on record the following statement of financial implications on behalf of the Secretary-General, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

By operative paragraph 14 of draft resolution A/69/L.80, the General Assembly would call on the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate and resources and in line with Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/40, in close cooperation and collaboration with Member States, to continue to collect information on patterns and flows of illicit trafficking in wildlife and to report thereon.

With regard to the request contained in operative paragraph 14, it is estimated that additional extra-budgetary resources in the amount of $504,300 would be required for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report on patterns and flows of illicit

trafficking in wildlife, including collection of data and conducting case studies on trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna.

The activities related to the aforementioned requests would be carried out provided that the additional extra-budgetary resources mentioned are made available. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, no additional provisions would be required under the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 or the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.

The Acting President: The Assembly will take note of draft resolution A/69/L.80, entitled "Tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife".

I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Zhang Saijin (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I should like to announce that since the submission of the draft resolution and in addition to those delegations listed in the document, the following countries have also become sponsors of draft resolution A/69/L.80: Azerbaijan, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Grenada, Kenya, Madagascar, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Namibia, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Viet Nam.

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to adopt draft resolution A/69/L.80?

Draft resolution A/69/L.80 was adopted (resolution 69/314).

The Acting President: I shall now give the floor to those representatives wishing to make statements following the adoption of the draft resolution.

Mr. Braun (Germany): Germany is very grateful for the support that we have received in the preparation of resolution 69/314. Today is a good day for the protection of wildlife and the fight against crime.

But despite this fact, I have to start with a piece of sad news. On Monday, the first elephant was poached in the famous Kruger National Park in South Africa. Every day in Africa around 100 elephants die at the hands of poachers. Almost all of the killing has occurred beyond the borders of South Africa, but the ivory poachers are now moving south. Record numbers of elephants and rhinos were poached last year. The Foreign Minister of Gabon just reminded us of the disturbing figures, to which I would like to add the following: Tanzania recently announced a drastic 60 per cent drop in its elephant populations in the past five years due to poaching for ivory. In addition, 1,200 rhinos were killed in South Africa for their horns in 2014 alone, and 700 have already been slaughtered this year.

Clearly wildlife is in more danger than ever, despite all of the efforts undertaken at the regional, national and international levels. It is our joint task, therefore, to protect wild fauna and flora in their many beautiful and varied forms for this generation and for generations to come. The time for action is now. If we fail, rhinos, elephants and other species will face local and, potentially, global extinction.

Equally disturbing, as we have just heard, are the negative political, economic, social and environmental effects of the illicit traffic in wildlife. The scale and nature of wildlife crime has become a pressing global problem that requires shared solutions at all levels. No one country, region or agency working alone will be able to succeed. The need for an enhanced collective effort within and among States, regions and agencies is obvious. This includes working across source, transit and destination States and tackling both demand and supply. The fight against wildlife crime is our common, shared responsibility.

With this in mind, the Foreign Minister of Germany and the President of Gabon co-chaired high-level meetings on poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking in the margins of the General Assembly's general debate in 2013 and 2014. I commend the President of the General Assembly for having personally attended the meeting in September 2014 and having called for the redoubling of United Nations efforts to put a halt to wildlife crime. As one outcome of those meetings, Gabon and Germany have established a United Nations Group of Friends on Poaching and Illicit Wildlife Trafficking. Its aim is to raise awareness among all Member States of the alarming trends in wildlife crime and the urgent need to step up our efforts to fight this scourge. The Group also discusses and prepares joint initiatives. The Group of Friends the resolution we have just adopted. It is action-oriented and aims at fighting illicit wildlife trafficking more effectively, thereby

taking up a respective call from the United Nations Environmental Assembly.

I sincerely thank all members that have supported our joint initiative, be it as members of the Group of Friends, as sponsors of the resolution, or by joining the consensus in the adoption. Together, we can stop the current trend and protect our flora and fauna. It is important that all stakeholders, citizens, civil society, the private sector, Governments and international organizations unite in this endeavour, which is so important for us, the people, and for the planet. By adopting the first resolution on tackling illicit wildlife trafficking, the General Assembly sends a strong signal that the world is determined to put an end to wildlife crime and that the United Nations is ready to take a leading role in that fight.

Our next step on this road will be the adoption of the post-2015 agenda, which contains dedicated targets to protect wildlife. We look forward to reviewing the information provided by the Secretary-General at the seventieth session of the General Assembly about the global status of illicit trafficking in wildlife and his proposals for possible future actions. I am convinced that the resolution that we all have adopted by consensus today will make our common efforts against illicit wildlife trafficking stronger and more effective.

The Acting President: I now give the floor to the observer of the European Union.

Mr. Beviglia Zampetti (European Union): The European Union (EU) and its member States would like to warmly thank Gabon and Germany for their hard work in helping us to reach agreement on the important resolution 69/314, of which all 28 States members of the Union are proud to be co-sponsors. The high number of sponsors from all parts of the world shows that the international community is aware that wildlife trafficking is an urgent and serious problem that requires global and comprehensive action far beyond the pure conservation approach or the necessary measures to protect iconic species. Indeed, wildlife trafficking exemplifies how criminal activities, taking advantage of every governing weakness, can cause serious environmental damage, have a disastrous impact on sustainable development and, in some cases, fuel conflicts and threaten the stability of entire regions.

Building on important previous resolutions and declarations of the United Nations Environmental Assembly, the United Nations Economic and Social Council, the thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Doha, and the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, today for the first time the General Assembly has adopted a comprehensive resolution on the issue, connecting the dots between the various interlinked aspects of wildlife trafficking. This is an essential step in demonstrating the political commitment to fighting wildlife trafficking nationally, regionally and globally, but it is also only a first step. In that regard, we very much welcome the fact that the General Assembly will consider the topic annually, and we look forward to hearing the proposal of the Secretary-General. On that basis, we hope to discuss next year an even more action-oriented resolution. We must be serious about implementing the commitments we have made today as well as those we will make in the future.

We are glad to note that in the European Union, we are currently developing an action plan against wildlife trafficking to further step up our efforts, both domestically and in support of developing countries. We will review the existing policies and measures at the EU level to react even more effectively to the current situation. In the European Union, we have recently taken an important step to fight the illegal wildlife trade by adopting stricter measures to ensure that the imports of hunting trophies are sustainable. On that basis, we have already agreed on a ban on the import of hunting trophies of African elephants from Tanzania and Mozambique into the EU in order to stop the decline of the population of African elephants in those countries.

On the operational side, over the past 30 years the European Union has funded many conservation projects in developing countries, including €500 million invested in protected-area management in Africa. The European Union is also supporting specific initiatives against wildlife crime with specialized agencies, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, for a total of €17 million. Moreover, the eleventh European Development Fund will increase the resources for those purposes, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, up to an estimated amount of €35 to €40 million specifically earmarked for wildlife crimes out of a total of €500 million aimed at wildlife issues in general.

New activities on African wildlife conservation have been defined in detail in a recent study endorsed by major conservation stakeholders worldwide. We must not relent until we end poaching and wildlife trafficking, as we have committed to do as one of the targets of the post-2015 agenda, which we expect to adopt in a few weeks. The resolution serves as an important political signal and a critical step towards bringing us closer to the desired goal and beyond.

Mr. Nkoloi (Botswana): I thank the President of the General Assembly for allowing us to share experiences, lessons and ideas on this very important subject.

At the outset, let me commend the Governments of Gabon and the Federal Republic of Germany for their leadership and contribution to bringing to the attention of the international community the plight of millions of endangered species as well as the challenges facing both humankind and animal-kind.

Botswana wholeheartedly welcomes the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 69/314, entitled "Tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife". We believe that the resolution not only reaffirms our commitment to paying respect to our natural capital, but also serves to reaffirm the intrinsic value of our biological diversity, as well as its contribution to sustainable development. As a country known for its abundance of flora and fauna, we place a very high premium on strong conservation policies in order to safeguard those natural resources for future generations.

In recent times, the world has witnessed rising tides in the illicit trafficking of wildlife — fauna and flora — by organized criminal gangs and groups. Every day, thousands of rhinos, elephants and members of other precious species are killed, maimed and stolen from their natural habitats by brutal gangs that are driven solely by profit and greed. Even as we speak today, we remain concerned and saddened by the latest headlines bringing to us reports of a rhino, elephant or other animal killed or maimed, its horn or tusk hacked off while the animal is left for dead.

In an endeavour to contribute to international efforts to stamp out the illicit transfer and trafficking in endangered species, we have developed framework agreements with our regional neighbours to coordinate the protection of rhinos and elephants. We recently collaborated with the Governments of South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe to repatriate a few hundred rhinos to Botswana, where they can enjoy the peace and tranquillity so cherished by our people. We would like to thank those Governments for their cooperation and collaboration in understanding these animals' plight.

Like violent extremism and terrorism, illegal wildlife trafficking has been on the rise, with criminal gangs and cartels harvesting tons of elephant tusks and rhino horns for profit. Armed poachers have infiltrated our national parks and animal sanctuaries, claiming thousands of these majestic animals' lives while causing communities untold damage and robbing them of their livelihoods. For most of our countries, fighting this scourge without help has strained our resources in both material and human terms. It is not easy to suppress animal-trafficking gangs, which puts a strain on our economies.

As we look ahead to the coming weeks and months, we must forge resilient partnerships and stand our ground even in the face of the armed gangs and criminals who rake in millions of dollars through their greedy activities. Together we must prevent, combat and eradicate this illegal trade in wildlife at both the supply and demand levels. We are confident that we will win this war.

Mr. Ndong Mba (Equatorial Guinea) (*spoke in Spanish*): I am pleased to take the floor following the adoption of this important resolution (resolution 69/314), not only to speak in explanation of position but also to say how pleased my Government and I personally are with the General Assembly's adoption of a resolution on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife.

Illicit trafficking in wildlife is on a level with illicit trafficking in drugs, which is why it is vital that we strengthen the fight against poaching in order to end, or at least attempt to eradicate, an activity that has a tragic impact on the fauna, the environment and the economy of the countries involved. For protected species, it is a hellish cycle. The smaller the population of a particular species, the worse it is affected and the faster it is rendered extinct. Between 3,000 and 6,000 great apes are killed every year. Rhinoceros horn costs more per kilogram than cocaine. More than 12,000 elephants are massacred each year. The trade in elephant tusks has become a branch of global organized crime. More than 60 tons of bushmeat illegally enter even European countries every year. Those numbers make it clear that this activity is extremely lucrative, although highly detrimental to the continued existence of the species affected.

The adoption of today's resolution by consensus and its huge number of sponsors compel us to express our sincere thanks to its promoters, the Republic of Gabon and Germany. The presence here of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Gabon, Mr. Issoze-Ngondet, demonstrates how important Central Africa as a whole, and Gabon in particular, consider this issue to be. As President of the Central African Protected Areas Network (RAPAC), based in Libreville, I would like to say on behalf of the Network how pleased we are, and to ask Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to strengthen their support for the fight against this scourge, so that we ensure today's resolution is implemented effectively.

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge, thank and pay tribute to the European Union for the decisive support it has given to RAPAC and other Central African organizations fighting to preserve biodiversity in general and forest ecosystems and wildlife in particular. We say, enough of this illicit traffic. We must act firmly through global partnerships to combat the illicit poaching and trafficking of wildlife.

Mr. Oyarzábal (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): Argentina joined the consensus on today's resolution 69/314, as we believe that illegal trafficking in endangered species of fauna and flora demands that we respect norms and that we need States' cooperation if we are to eliminate it. We would like it noted and understood for the record that this resolution refers to the term "trafficking in wildlife", meaning trafficking in endangered species of wild fauna and flora. Its makes references to Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/40 in order to reinforce that. Accordingly, the provisions of the resolution, including references to specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations or entities of the Secretariat, should be aligned with the mandates approved by those instruments and as set out in resolution 2013/40.

Mr. Wilson (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom is proud to be a sponsor of today's important resolution 69/314, on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife. We align ourselves with the statement delivered earlier on behalf of the European Union, and we would like to thank and congratulate Gabon and Germany. Over the past two years, their dedication and hard work has been vital in rallying support and guiding this process towards agreement.

Today's resolution demonstrates a powerful and growing consensus that the illegal wildlife trade is an issue worthy of global attention at the highest levels of Government. That illicit trade is much more than an environmental issue. It drives corruption, damages economic growth and hinders sustainable development. It undermines good governance and the rule of law. The iconic animals the resolution will help to protect hold a special place in our hearts and those of our children. The outrage over the killing of Cecil the lion in Zimbabwe shows how strongly people feel about the issue. Today's resolution recognizes the huge efforts that are being made across the world to tackle the scourge of the illegal wildlife trade, and the important steps that have been taken to secure international commitment. Having the issues recognized at the highest level of the United Nations is an essential step. We cannot lose the momentum that we have worked so hard to build. An annual review by the General Assembly will ensure that it stays on the agenda, and we look forward to the recommendations of the Secretary-General coming out of this review next year.

As host of the London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade, held 18 months ago, the United Kingdom remains strongly committed to working with its international partners to turn the tide against this abhorrent trade. We supported Botswana in holding the Kasane Conference in March, and we look forward to working closely with Viet Nam, which will hold a third high-level conference in 2016. We will also shortly launch a further round of funding for projects around the world which will help to tackle the trade on the ground.

By working together we have made progress, but there is much more to do. This resolution signals our collective determination and strikes a resounding blow against this destructive trade. It is a fight we can win. We will not relent until we do.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker on this item.

The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 13.

Agenda item 7 *(continued)*

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

The Acting President: Member States will recall that at its 75th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2014, the General Assembly concluded its consideration of agenda item 16. In order for the Assembly to consider

agenda item 16, it will be necessary to reopen its consideration. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to reopen consideration of agenda item 16?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: Members will further recall that at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2014, the General Assembly decided to allocate agenda item 16 to the Second Committee. In order to enable the General Assembly to take action expeditiously on the document, may I take it that the Assembly wishes to consider agenda item 16 directly in this plenary meeting and proceed immediately to its consideration?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 16 (*continued*)

Information and communications technologies for development

Draft decision (A/69/L.83)

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take on draft decision A/69/L. 83, entitled "Overall review of the General Assembly of the implementation of the outcomes of the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society". May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt draft decision A/69/L.83?

Draft decision A/69/L.83 was adopted (decision 69/559).

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 16.

Agenda item 7 *(continued)*

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

The Acting President: Members will recall that the General Assembly concluded its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 113 at its 55th plenary meeting, on 18 November 2014. In order for the Assembly to consider the item, it will be necessary to reopen consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 113. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to reopen consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 113?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: Representatives will also recall that at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2014, the General Assembly decided to allocate this sub-item to the Fifth Committee. In order to enable the Assembly to proceed expeditiously on this sub-item, may I also take it that the Assembly wishes to consider sub-item (a) of agenda item 113 directly in plenary meeting and proceed immediately to its consideration?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 113 (*continued*)

Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments

(a) Appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Note by the Secretary-General (A/69/101/Add.1)

The Acting President: As indicated in document A/69/101/Add.1, the Secretary-General has received notification of the resignation of Mr. Toshihiro Aiki of Japan from the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, effective 15 August 2015. The Assembly will therefore be required to appoint at its current session a person to fill the vacancy for the remaining period of the term of office of Mr. Aki, which expires on 31 December 2016. As also indicated in document A/69/101/Add.1, the Government of Japan has nominated Mr. Takeshi Akamatsu to fill the vacancy arising from the resignation of Mr. Aiki. The Secretariat was informed by the Chair of the Group of Asia-Pacific States that the candidature of Mr. Akamatsu has been endorsed by the Group.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to appoint to appoint Mr. Takeshi Akamatsu of Japan as the member of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for the term effective beginning 15 August 2015 and ending 31 December 2016?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 113?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.